

METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR INTERFACING
SMALL DEVICES TO COMPUTER NETWORKS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 In one aspect, the invention is a method for communicating with a device such as a programmable logic controller (PLC) or an I/O device. The method includes steps of: interconnecting the device to a personal computer (PC) running a web browser; and running an application on the PC that launches the web browser to an initial page and uploads a web browser applet or active x object from the device to the PC via the interconnection.

10 The above-described embodiment combines PLC and/or I/O communications with the Internet's wide reach and ability to supply information, and does so with the "look and feel" of a PC-Internet interface without adding significantly to the overhead burden of these small devices.